



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 27,2023

To: [Chair Rep. Reynolds](#), [Vice-Chair Rep. Nguyen](#), [Vice-Chair Rep. Scharf](#), and
[Members of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services](#)

Re: [HB 3235](#) – Creates a refundable child tax credit, calculated based on the number of dependents under age 18 – **Support**

The LWVUS Social Policy position of Meeting Basic Needs "supports programs and policies to reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families."

Since the 1970’s, the League of Women Voters of the US, has continued to work to combat poverty. We have worked on fiscal issues, since the 1980’s, like tax reform. And we are prepared to work today, to alleviate poverty for children, so that we might help all children to reach their full potential as human beings.

In a fundamental abstract study in Future Child: “The Effects of Poverty on Children,” Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Greg Duncan, Vol. 7, No. 2, Summer/Fall 1997, documented the results of living in poverty on children’s day-to-day lives clearly: “Inadequate nutrition; fewer learning experiences; instability of residence, lower quality of schools; exposure to environmental toxins, family violence, homelessness, dangerous streets; less access to friends, services, and, for adolescents, jobs?”

Documented by the State of Oregon Employment Dept., Poverty and the Oregon Workforce, Dec. 13, 2022:

- “The poverty rate across the US reached 12.8% in 2020 and 2021, up from 11.4% in 2019. In Oregon, looking at those living in poverty or near poverty, 15.9% of Oregonians had incomes below 125% of the poverty level in 2021.”
- “The same documentation in 2021 shows 22% of the children in Oregon were living below the poverty line; 27,600 children ages 5-17.”

And of course, these statistics can’t possibly document all those children living in poverty in Oregon.

We urge your Support for HB 3235, particularly because of the above documentation, and the lasting negative affects living in poverty creates for the health and economic future of Oregon.

Thank you to all the sponsors of this significant legislation, and for the opportunity to discuss this.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

Anne Nesse
Education and Early Childhood Portfolio